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NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

#### QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. COMPARE 1949 CHICK PRODUCTION WITH 1948.
2. WHAT CAUSED HONEY PRODUCTION TO DECREASE LAST YEAR?
3. IS THE SUPPLY OF SEED POTATOES ADEQUATE FOR 1950?
4. HOW DOES THE 1950 TOTAL GRAIN SUPPLY COMPARE WITH LAST YEAR?
5. DISCUSS THE TREND OF FARM WAGE RATES.
6. GIVE NORTH CAROLINA PRICES RECEIVED FOR JANUARY.
7. COMPARE JANUARY FEED PRICES WITH DECEMBER.
8. WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR THE SHORT 1949 FRUIT CROP IN N. C.?
9. WHAT FARM PRODUCTS SOLD BELOW PARITY IN JANUARY?
10. GIVE THE INDICATED SIZE OF THE 1950 TURKEY CROP.

No. 54

RALEIGH, N. C.

FEBRUARY 6, 1950

## AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

### CERTIFIED SEED POTATO PRODUCTION RECORD HIGH

Certifying agencies in 31 States reported that 48,427,628 bushels of certified seed potatoes were produced in 1949. This total represents about 12 percent of the Nation's total production of potatoes and includes 51 named varieties.

A total of 141,461 acres passed final inspection in 1949 compared with 160,250 acres in 1948 and was the smallest acreage in 6 years. However, in spite of the smaller acreage, production in 1949 was slightly greater than in 1948. The season was favorable for plant and tuber growth, and yields of most varieties were exceptionally good, averaging 342 bushels per acre - highest of record. Production of Cobb-lers in 1949 totaled 5,471,185 compared with 7,513,000 in 1948, and production of Sebagos for certified seed totaled 939,964 bushels in 1949 compared with 1,517,345 in 1948.

### STATE HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 40%

Honey production in North Carolina totaled 2,457,000 pounds in 1949 - 40% less than the 4,114,000 pounds produced in 1948 and 59% below 1947. The decrease in production in 1949 was due to average production per colony decreasing from 22 pounds in 1948 to 13 pounds in 1949. The total number of colonies increased from 187,000 in 1948 to 189,000 in 1949.

The average price received by bee keepers for all honey decreased from 31.5 cents per pound in 1948 to 30.9 cents per pound in 1949. The total value of honey production in the state stands at 759,000 dollars, 41% below the 1948 total.

The 1949 honey production for the United States totaled 226,978,000 pounds - 10% more than the 206,305,000 pounds produced in 1948 and 8% more than the 1943-47 average. The average production of 40.6 pounds of honey per colony in 1949 was the second highest since 1941, being exceeded only by that of 1945.

### RECORD CHICK OUTPUT IN 1949

North Carolina commercial hatcheries produced 2,202,000 chicks during December, 14 percent less than the 2,554,000 chicks hatched during December 1948, but 59 percent above the December 1943-47 average hatch of 1,383,000 chicks.

Due to recent declines in the price of commercial broilers and eggs, the demand for chicks has weakened, and some hatcheries, particularly those supplying chicks for commercial broiler production, had to curtail their operations during December.

Production of chicks in North Carolina during the entire year 1949 was the largest of record. Output for the year totaled 51,855,000 chicks, compared with an output of 38,984,000 chicks in 1948--an increase in production of 33 percent for 1949.

Commercial hatcheries over the Nation produced an estimated 55,026,000 chicks during December, approximately the same number as was pro-

(Continued on Page 4)

### TOTAL GRAIN SUPPLY 11 PERCENT ABOVE LAST YEAR

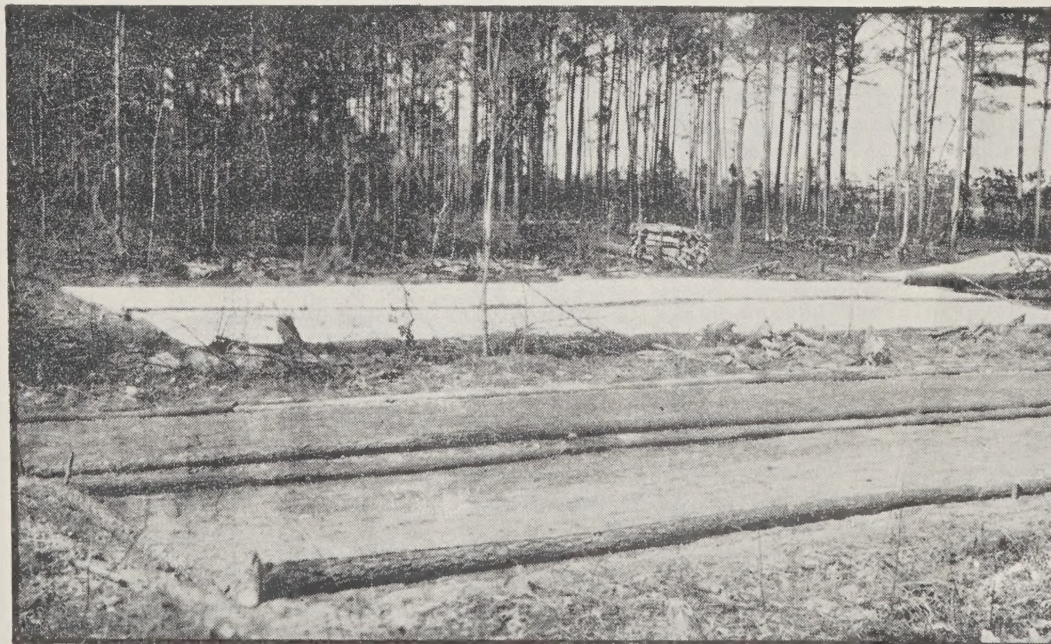
The total supply of grains (corn, wheat, oats, barley and rye) in all positions in North Carolina on January 1, at 59,682,000 bushels was 11 percent greater than for the same date a year ago.

Corn stocks in all positions, meaning on-farm plus off-farm stocks, totaled 53,667,000 bushels, which was also 11 percent greater than was on hand January 1, 1949. Total corn stocks amounted to about 90 percent of the total available supplies of grains in all positions in the State.

Stocks of wheat both on and off farms totaled 2,112,000 bushels on January 1, 1950. This is 14 percent less than stocks on hand on the same date a year ago. Lower supplies of wheat this year are in part due to the poor crop produced in 1949, which was 4 percent short of the 1948 crop. However, disappearance of wheat to date has been at a more rapid rate than for

(Continued on Page 4)

### THE CRADLE OF THE GOLDEN WEED





## NORTH CAROLINA PRODUCTION, FARM DISTRIBUTION AND VALUE OF FRUITS AND NUTS - 1948, 1949

CROP	UNIT	PRODUCTION		FARM DISPOSITION				SEASON AVE. PRICE		VALUE					
				FOR FARM HOUSEHOLD USE		SOLD		REC'D BY FARMERS		FOR TOTAL PRODUCTION		FOR HOUSEHOLD USE		FOR SALES	
		1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
		THOUSAND						DOLLARS		THOUSAND DOLLARS					
APPLES	BUSHEL	976	448	350	200	626	248	2.00	2.00	1,952	896	700	400	1,252	496
PEACHES	BUSHEL	1,646	1,428	425	400	1,221	1,028	2.65	2.60	4,362	3,713	1,126	1,040	3,236	2,673
PEARS	BUSHEL	209	130	170	100	39	30	2.00	1.90	418	247	340	190	78	57
GRAPES	TONS	5.6	4.5	3.4	2.8	2.2	1.7	176.00	145.00	986	652	599	406	387	246
PECANS (ALL)	POUNDS	2,752	2,924	760	780	1,992	2,144	.214	.243	587	710	160	188	427	522

## 1949 WAS POOR YEAR FOR FRUIT CROPS

Final estimates of the outcome of four important fruit crops (apples, peaches, pears and grapes) in North Carolina show that production hazards in 1949 were far heavier than usual.

Commercial apple production, at an estimated 448,000 bushels, was 54 percent below the 1948 crop. This was the third lowest crop produced since 1934, the lowest being 194,000 bushels in 1945 with 391,000 bushels in 1943 being the second lowest.

Some of the causes of the short crop for 1949 were heavy damage done to blooms and early set fruit by an unusually hard freeze in the spring. Heavy rains and cloudy days during the summer spraying period made it difficult for orchardists to maintain insect-disease control programs.

Commercial peach production in North Carolina during 1949 totaled 1,428,000 bushels, 13 percent less than in 1948. The crop of last season was the second lowest since 1929, the shortest crop for that period being 252,000 bushels produced in 1943 following very severe late spring freezes around April 4 - 16 of that year.

The 1949 crop was shortened by late spring freezes and a rather difficult season for the control of diseases, particularly "brown rot" which caused heavy losses to many growers.

Pear production in this State is of little significance commercially. Outcome of the total crop at 130,000 bushels was 38 percent under last year. Weather effects were much the same as for peaches.

Grape production in 1949, at 4,500 tons was 20 percent lower than in 1948 and the shortest crop since 1945. Cloudy, rainy weather at the time of blooming was the was the principal cause of lower production.

In contrast to fruit crops, pecan production in 1949 was 6 percent greater than in 1948.

## RURAL HOUSING STUDY PLANNED

A study of rural housing conditions will be conducted in 382 counties in the United States during 1950. Fourteen counties will be sampled in North Carolina and about 1,000 farm operators will be contacted. These counties are: Bladen, Chatham, Cleveland, Currituck, Duplin, Forsyth, Granville, Johnston, Northampton, Stanly, Swain, Warren, Wayne, and Yancey.

The forthcoming survey will obtain information on the number of farm houses built in 1949 and will provide a basis for determining the amount of expenditures on houses and service buildings for new construction, major improvements and repairs.

The survey, which will get under way in all the above mentioned North Carolina Counties on February 20, is being made in compliance with the Housing Act of 1949 which directed the United States Department of Agriculture to report on the housing situation.

In the United States reports will be obtained from about 9,000 farms under the act that also established a program of technical services, financial aids, and research for farm construction activity.

MERCHANTABLE POTATO STOCKS  
SECOND HIGHEST OF RECORD

Stocks of merchantable potatoes held on January 1, 1950, by growers and local dealers in or near the areas where produced are the second highest of record. These holdings, totaling 145,440,000 bushels, are the second highest of record, being exceeded only by the 152,170,000 bushels held on January 1, 1947, from the record-large crop harvested in 1946. Current January 1 stocks were 7 percent larger than the 135,880,000 bushels in storage the same date a year ago, 21 percent larger than the January 1, 1948, holdings, but 4 percent less than the record-high stocks January 1, 1947.

In the East, supplies are particularly heavy with the 50,170,000 bushels in Maine being the highest January 1 merchantable stocks of record.

For the 37 late and intermediate states, production in 1949 was estimated at 341,068,000 bushels, compared with the 1948 crop of 389,318,000 bushels. Growers are expected to sell 279,624,000 bushels, or 82 percent of their 1949 production. Marketings of the crop from these 37 states prior to January 1, 1950, amounted to 124,484,000 bushels, not including about 9,700,000 bushels purchased by the Government in these states. This quantity is about 15 million bushels larger than marketings from the 1948 crop prior to January 1, 1949, when Government purchases of about 77,000,000 bushels are deducted from total marketings.

## FEED PRICES ABOUT THE SAME

Average prices paid by North Carolina farmers for most high protein and grain by-products feeds remained unchanged for the month ending January 15 except for a few minor declines. Bran, corn meal, cottonseed meal, 20% mixed dairy feed, scratch grain and meat scrap were the same as December. Middlings and laying mash each declined five cents per hundred while 16% and 18% mixed dairy feed dropped 10 cents per hundred pounds under the price paid by farmers a month earlier. All feed prices either remained unchanged or declined during the month.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS JANUARY 15, 1950  
WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDRED WEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	DEC. 15 1949	JAN. 15 1950	DEC. 15 1949	JAN. 15 1950
	- DOLLARS -			
BRAN.....	3.30	3.30	2.92	2.90
MIDDINGS.....	3.45	3.40	3.08	3.02
CORN MEAL.....	3.80	3.80	3.16	3.17
COTTONSEED MEAL.....	3.45	3.45	3.85	3.84
MIXED DAIRY FEED:				
16% PROTEIN.....	3.40	3.30	3.41	3.42
18% PROTEIN.....	3.65	3.55	3.63	3.61
20% PROTEIN.....	3.80	3.80	3.73	3.73
LAYING MASH.....	4.70	4.65	4.41	4.39
SCRATCH GRAIN.....	4.00	4.00	3.72	3.72
MEAT SCRAP.....	6.30	6.30	6.12	6.17



## NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS

(N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	DEC. 15 1949	JAN. 15 1950	JAN. 15 1949	JAN. 15 1948	JAN. 15 1947
NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS..	227	218	245	273	255
COTTON & COTTONSEED	211	214	242	276	257
GRAINS.....	159	163	182	252	192
MEAT ANIMALS.....	310	317	364	379	310
POULTRY.....	261	190	290	302	249
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	228	223	242	244	227
TOBACCO.....	276	256	295	276	310
MISCELLANEOUS.....	225	232	234	246	224
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID-a	92	88	99	109	119
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED....	233 b	235	268	307	260
PRICES PAID	246 b	249	248	251	215
INTEREST & TAXES..					
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	95 b	94	108	122	121

a. Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid  
b. Revised

PARITY INDEX AND PRICES RECEIVED UP  
PARITY RATIO DOWN

The revised Index of Prices Received by Farmers rose 2 points from December 15, 1949, to January 15 of this year and now stands at 235 percent of its January 1910-December 1914 base. The increase results mainly from higher prices farmers received for truck crops and meat animals which more than offset lower prices for poultry, eggs, and dairy products.

At the same time, increases in interest, taxes, farm wage rates, and in prices of feeder cattle raised the Parity Index (Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates) 3 points to 249. The commodity price component of the Parity Index was 238 -- up 1 point since December 15, but down 8 points from a year ago.

The Parity Ratio (ratio of the Index of Prices Received by Farmers for things they sell to the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for things they buy, including interest, taxes, and farm wage rates) was 94 -- down 1 point from last month, and 10 points below a year ago.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS  
AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	DEC. 15 1949	JAN. 15 1950	DEC. 15 1949	JAN. 15 1950	DEC. 15 1949	JAN. 15 1950
DOLLARS-						
COTTON, LB.....	.265	.264	.297	.298	89	89
WHEAT, BU.....	1.93	1.92	2.12	2.13	91	90
CORN, BU.....	1.13	1.15	1.54	1.55	73	74
OATS, BU.....	.699	.705	.958	.914	73	77
BARLEY, BU.....	1.09	1.10	1.49	1.42	73	77
RYE, BU.....	1.26	1.25	1.73	1.65	73	-
BEEF CATTLE, CWT.	19.00	10.40	13.00	16.90	146	115
HOGS, CWT.....	14.80	15.10	17.40	18.70	85	81
LAMBS, CWT.....	21.00	21.60	14.10	18.60	149	116
CHICKENS, LB.....	.223	.203	.274	.284	81	71
EGGS, DOZ.....	.405	.313	.516	.492	66a/	62
MILK, WHLSE, CWT.	3.85b/	3.85a/	3.87c/	4.31	101a/	89c/
PERCENT-						

a. Ratio of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices  
b. Preliminary  
c. Revised

## N. C. PRICES RECEIVED CONTINUES DECLINE

Following a trend started four months ago, the "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets decreased 9 points during the month ending January 15. The index decreased from 227 as of December 15 to 218 as of January 15. The same index was 275 in October and 249 in November.

Although the index of "All Farm Products" declined 9 points, grains, cotton and cottonseed, meat animals and miscellaneous commodities all showed increases in commodity indexes. The poultry index dropped from 261 as of December to 190 as of January 15 and is primarily responsible for the 9 point drop in the index of "All Farm Products."

Due to higher prices received for cotton, the cotton and cottonseed index increased 3 points during the month.

The tobacco index decreased 20 points because of lower grades of Type 31 tobacco being offered for sale. Sales have already been completed for all other types of tobacco.

Higher prices for beef cattle and veal calves resulted in a rise of 7 points in the prices of hogs and lambs dropped but not enough to offset the increase in the prices of beef cattle and veal calves.

The poultry index dropped 71 points for the sharpest drop during the month. This drop was due to lower prices for both chickens and eggs.

A drop of 2 points in the dairy products index can be attributed to a decline in the price received for wholesale milk butter and butterfat. Retail milk remained unchanged.

An increase in the price of peanuts, cowpeas and sweet potatoes caused the miscellaneous commodity group index to increase to 232 points, a gain of 7 points over the December index.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JANUARY 15, 1950  
WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		DECEMBER 15 1949	JANUARY 15 1950	JANUARY 15 1950
-DOLLARS-				
CORN.....	BU.	1.09	1.14	1.15
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.02	2.05	1.92
OATS.....	BU.	.91	.90	.705
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.22	1.15	1.10
RYE.....	BU.	1.98	2.04	1.25
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	1.87	1.91	2.11
COWPEAS.....	BU.	3.25	3.35	3.36
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.111	.118	.105
COTTON.....	LB.	.272	.275	.265
COTTONSEED.....	TON	44.00	44.00	43.60
WOOL.....	LB.	.49	.49	.472
HOGS.....	CWT.	15.70	15.30	15.10
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	16.20	17.00	19.40
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	22.40	22.90	23.30
SHEEP.....	CWT.	10.00	10.00	9.84
LAMBS.....	CWT.	21.80	21.20	21.60
MILK COWS.....	HEAD	129.00	126.00	183.00
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.257	.218	.203
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.54	.37	.313
MILK, WHLSE.....	CWT.	5.00 b/	4.90 a/	4.08
RETAIL.....	QT.	.20	.20	.183
BUTTER.....	LB.	.56	.53	.574
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.55	.54	.625
HAY, ALL BALED..	TON	28.50	27.50	21.90
POTATOES.....	BU.	1.65	1.65	1.36
SWEET POTATOES..	BU.	2.05	2.10	2.15
APPLES, COM'L...	BU.	2.20	2.20	1.66
LESPEDEZA SEED..	CWT.	7.70	8.40	7.05
KOREAN.....	CWT.	5.70	6.10	.
KOBE.....	CWT.	9.20	10.40	.
COM. & TENN 76.	CWT.	17.80	17.80	.
SERICEA.....	CWT.	18.00	18.30	.

a. Preliminary  
b. Revised

More public construction in 1950 will offset less private building so that total expenditures for construction will about equal last year's 19 billion.

Total supply of all feed concentrates for the 1949-50 season is estimated at about 179 million tons - the largest supply on record.



## FARM REPORT

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FEBRUARY 6, 1950

FARM REPORT

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### BROILER OPERATIONS FOR THE CHATHAM-WILKES COMMERCIAL BROILER AREAS BY MONTHS 1949 PLACEMENTS IN EASTERN COMMERCIAL BROILER AREAS a/

MONTH	EGGS SET	CHICKS HATCHED	CHICKS PLACED	MARKET BROILERS	AVERAGE PRICE PAID PRODUCERS PER POUND FOR BROILERS 1948 - 1949	PLACEMENTS IN EASTERN COMM. BROILER AREAS 1948 - 1949
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	CENTS	(000)
JANUARY	2,872	1,791	1,788	1,038	— .30	19,846 31,539
FEBRUARY	2,843	1,963	1,602	1,184	.35 .26	17,347 25,883
MARCH	2,982	2,272	1,659	1,213	.37 .28	18,163 27,370
APRIL	3,432	2,866	2,121	1,715	.38 .29	21,253 35,026
MAY	2,331	1,990	1,531	1,501	.37 .26	25,554 27,366
JUNE	1,870	1,585	1,549	1,572	.38 .25	19,148 25,455
JULY	1,932	1,474	1,606	1,849	.34 .26	22,011 24,750
AUGUST	1,278	930	1,115	1,417	.35 .28	15,594 18,212
SEPTEMBER	1,535	882	1,048	1,317	.34 .28	14,855 19,743
OCTOBER	2,495	1,596	1,614	1,360	.33 .26	21,435 31,860
NOVEMBER	1,741	1,510	1,358	943	.34 .29	21,869 24,751
DECEMBER	1,594	1,342	1,178	1,383	.35 .26	23,939 29,486
TOTAL	26,914	20,201	18,169	16,492	.35 .27	241,014 321,441

a/ East Conn., Delaware-Maryland, Virginia-West Va.-Shenandoah Valley, North Carolina Chatham-Wilkes, N. Georgia, N. W. Arkansas, Texas

### LARGER TURKEY CROP EXPECTED THIS YEAR

Reports from turkey growers in North Carolina indicate that turkey production will be increased 20 percent this year over the 1949 record crop.

If growers carry out their intentions, the number of turkeys raised this year will be 583,000, or 97,000 more birds than indicated on the preliminary report for 1949.

Such a production this year would be 82 percent greater than the 360,000 turkeys raised in 1948 and 83 percent above the 1942-46 average production of 319,000 birds.

Turkey growers over the United States plan to increase turkey production in 1950 by one percent. If growers carry out their intentions, the number of turkeys raised this year will be 41,894,000.

Growers' returns indicate that the 1950 crop will be 13 percent larger than the 1942-46 average production, but 5 percent smaller than the record crop of 1945.

### GRAIN SUPPLY (Continued)

the same period a year ago as shown by the comparison of production and January 1 stocks on hand.

Stocks of oats held in all positions in North Carolina on January 1 this year totaling 3,515,000 bushels, were 27 percent greater than for the same date a year ago. Production of oats in North Carolina in 1949 was 39 percent greater than in 1948. Current stocks would indicate that disappearance of oats to date was at a more rapid rate than for the same period a year ago.

The total U. S. supply of corn on hand in all positions on January 1, 1950, amounted to nearly 2,830 million bushels. These stocks are the largest in the 7 years of comparable records covering most of the period of huge corn crops. Stocks this year exceeded by 188 million bushels the previous high mark of January 1, 1949. About 2,401 million bushels of this corn still remained on farms, 147 million bushels less than a year ago.

### CHICK OUTPUT (Continued)

duced during December, 1948. A somewhat smaller hatch during January this year is indicated as the number of eggs in incubators on January 1 was 5 percent less than a year ago. Production of chicks during January last year was the highest of record for that month.

The demand for chicks continued strong throughout 1949, particularly for chicks for commercial broiler production. Hatcheries produced 1,536,779,000 chicks during the year, the third largest production of record.

The mid-December cost of the U. S. farm poultry ration was \$3.38 per 100 pounds. This compares with \$3.31 in mid-November and \$3.62 in December 1948. The egg-feed, chicken-feed and turkey-feed price relationships are much less favorable than a year ago.

### WAGE RATES DECLINE

Wage rates paid to hired farm workers in North Carolina on January 1 were lower than for January 1 a year ago. The rate per day without room and board decreased from \$4.50 to \$4.15. This compares with \$3.40 per day paid on January 1, 1946.

Farm employment for hired workers was 8 percent below January 1, 1949 in the South Atlantic States. Total farm employment was only 1 percent lower than a year ago however due to a slight increase in unpaid family workers.

Farmers in the state were preparing and planting tobacco beds, and many farmers took advantage of favorable weather to plow and disk land.